

Message Text

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53

ACTION SIL-01

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 IO-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-11

INR-10 LAB-06 NSAE-00 RSC-01 DODE-00 PA-04 USIA-15

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FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8281

INFO USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY BERN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

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AMEMBASSY ROME

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AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY VALLETTA

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

USMISSION GENEVA

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

USMISSION OECD PARIS

AMCONSUL BREMEN

AMCONSUL DUSSELDORF

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AMCONSUL MUNICH

AMCONSUL STUTTGART

USMISSION BERLIN

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ELAB, UR, GW

SUBJECT: BERLIN REMAINS ISSUE IN SOVIET AUCCTU/GERMAN
DGB RELATIONS

1. SUMMARY: THE ISSUE OF INCLUDING WEST BERLIN AND MEMBERS OF THE BERLIN DGB IN THE OVERALL PROGRAM OF EXCHANGES BETWEEN THE SOVIET AUCCTU AND THE GERMAN DGB HAS REAPPEARED AS AN ISSUE AFTER THE DGB HAD ASSUMED THAT THIS ISSUE HAD BEEN RESOLVED. END SUMMARY.

2. A DGB EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER INDICATED TO THE EMBASSY'S LABOR ATTACHE THAT THE LATEST DISPUTE REVOLVED AROUND THE RECENT RETURN VISIT OF A SOVIET DELEGATION TO STUDY VOCATIONAL TRAINING IN THE FRG. AFTER THE DGB HAD SENT A DELEGATION TO THE SOVIET UNION, THE DGB PREPARED A PROPOSED ITINERARY FOR A RETURN VISIT OF A SOVIET AUCCTU DELEGATION. AS PART OF THE PROGRAM THE DGB INCLUDED A VISIT TO VOCATIONAL TRAINING INSTITUTIONS IN BERLIN. THE SOVIET RESPONSE WAS TO CALL FOR CHANGES IN THE PROGRAM TO ELIMINATE THE BERLIN PORTION AND TO REPLACE IT WITH FURTHER VISITS IN THE FRG "TO PROVIDE A MORE ADEQUATE OPPORTUNITY TO STUDY VOCATIONAL TRAINING IN THE FRG." THE DGB RESPONSE WAS TO EXTEND THE PROGRAM THREE DAYS TO INCLUDE FURTHER CONTACTS IN THE FRG BUT THE DGB INSISTED ON THE INCLUSION OF WEST BERLIN IN THE PROGRAM. WHEN THEY ARRIVED, THE SOVIETS INDICATED THAT THEY DID NOT WISH TO GO TO BERLIN AND THE ISSUE AROSE AS TO HOW THE DGB SHOULD RESPOND. AT THAT TIME, THE DGB EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE HAD A REGULARLY SCHEDULED MEETING WITH CHANCELLOR BRANDT. WHEN THE ISSUE WAS DISCUSSED, THE DGB EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE VOTED UNANIMOUSLY NOT TO GIVE THE VISITING SOVIET DELEGATION THE PLANNED PROGRAM OF VISITS TO VOCATIONAL SCHOOLS BUT RATHER TO PROVIDE SIMPLY A TOURIST TRIP AROUND THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC. THE DGB HAS ALSO INDICATED THAT THE EXCHANGE PROGRAM BETWEEN THE DGB AND THE SOVIET AUCCTU CANNOT CONTINUE WITHOUT SOVIET ACCEPTANCE OF THE WEST BERLIN DGB AS AN INTEGRAL

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PART OF DGB.

3. COMMENT: UNTIL DIE WELT AND AP PUBLISHED A SHORT STORY DATED BERLIN, OCTOBER 23, REPORTING COMMENTS BY BERLIN DGB CHAIRMAN WALTER SICKERT, THERE HAS BEEN NO DGB PRESS RELEASE OR PRESS COVERAGE ON EITHER THE ABOVE DGB VISIT TO THE SOVIET UNION OR THE SOVIET AUCCTU DELEGATION VISIT TO THE FRG. SOME DGB SOURCES BELIEVE

THIS EXPERIENCE HAS SERVED TO COOL SOME OF THE ENTHU-
SIASM THAT HAS EXISTED IN SOME SECTORS OF THE DGB FOR
EAST-WEST EXCHANGE.
HILLENBRAND

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Disposition Authority: garlanwa
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